



SUSTAINABLE SETTINGS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION WIND POWER STUDY

Anemometer Loan Program Captures Data to Determine Site Feasibility

Carbondale, CO August 5, 2004 – The Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) has chosen Sustainable Settings' whole systems learning center at Thompson Creek Ranch to receive an anemometer through its Anemometer Loan Program. This program works through a partnership with matching funds from U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Powering America Program. Anemometers are wind-measuring devices that are mounted atop towers. OEMC purchased seven 20-meter anemometer towers and anemometers, to be installed in Colorado, to collect site-specific wind data. The tower and anemometer will be raised at Sustainable Settings on Thursday, August 5th.

The goal of OEMC's anemometer loan program is to capture the data collected by the anemometers, such as the direction, force and speed of wind. The data collected from the anemometer will be interpreted and analyzed by a third-party source working with OEMC. The anemometers will generally collect data for a period of one year. After the site's wind data has been collected, the anemometers will be moved to other sites. The data collected will be available to the public.

"OEMC initiated this program due to the tremendous interest in generating wind energy," said Rick Grice, OEMC Executive Director. "Our goal is to assist communities, landowners, and other stakeholders in making informed decisions on a site's wind energy resources. The data collected from the anemometers is invaluable in this process."

The anemometers were first installed in 2003 to locations in Lamar, Julesburg, Aurora, Montrose, Leadville; Walden, and Meeker. Many of the original sites have completed their data collection and the anemometers have been removed and installed in new locations such as Carbondale, Sedgwick, Deer Trail and Paonia.

Site selections are based on existing statewide wind mapping information as well as the participant's stated purpose for wind energy utilization. Additionally, selections were based on the awareness of current electric supplier's net metering and interconnection policies, distance to transmission lines, transmission capacity availability, and likely funding for the wind project.

Sustainable Settings has been given approval in their master plan by Pitkin County's Board of County Commissioners to install a 110 foot tower and wind generator. This year-long study will provide important data in understanding what energy potential there is at Sustainable Settings' ranch site. This study will also lead to the raising of the wind generating tower which is projected to be a major contributor to Sustainable Settings' goals of creating a net-energy producing development as laid out in the organization's Comprehensive Energy Plan.

"Our ranch is strategically located at the confluence of Thompson Creek and The Crystal River. From our first year of observation on site we think that these two drainages offer a wind microclimate that might prove beneficial for wind power generation," said Brook Le Van, Sustainable Settings director

Sustainable Settings' is developing a Whole Systems Learning Center to research, demonstrate and conduct educational activities in green development, sustainable agriculture and land stewardship. The ranch is home to



protected open space and a critical wildlife corridor, and is host to sustainably managed livestock, organic orchards and production gardens. Educational programs at Sustainable Settings are open to valley schools, organizations and residents of all ages through special projects with kids, mentor-apprenticeships, adult internships and volunteer opportunities. The organization is committed to demonstrating state-of-the-art sustainable human settlement, producing safe organic food for the local community, and providing a place for education and community integration focused on the idea of becoming “native” to this place.

Sustainable Settings is located at 6107 Highway 133 south of Carbondale along the West Elk Loop Scenic Byway. For more information, Sustainable Settings can be reached at (970) 963-6107, e-mail info@sustainablesettings.org or on their new Web site at www.sustainablesettings.org.

OEMC Program Contact Information

To learn more about the loan program, contact OEMC's Olga Erlich at (303) 894-2383 x1218 or olga.erlich@state.co.us. For information on DOE's Wind Powering America Program, visit www.eere.energy.gov/windpoweringamerica.

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